

Application No. 09/982,977
Amendment dated November 24, 2003
Reply to Office Action of August 26, 2003

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

The Examiner has indicated that claims 19, 20 and 25 are allowed. These claims have not been amended.

The Examiner has rejected claims 21 and 26. Claim 21 has been cancelled and claim 26 has been amended to depend upon new claim 27.

The Examiner objected to claims 23 and 24 on the grounds that these claims depended upon a rejected claim. In response, claim 23 has been cancelled in favour of new claim 27 which corresponds to previous claim 23 in independent form. Claim 24 has been cancelled in favour of new claim 28 which corresponds to previous claim 24 in independent form.

It will be noted that amended claim 26 should now be allowable since it depends upon claim 27 which corresponds to previous allowable claim 23.

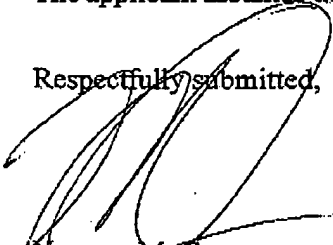
In brief, claims 19 and 20 were previously allowed. Rejected claim 21 has been cancelled. Claim 23 has been amended to independent form in new claim 27. Claim 24 has been cancelled in favour of new claim 28 which represents previous claim 24 in independent form. Claim 25 has been allowed. Claim 26 depends upon new claim 27 and accordingly is allowable.

It is submitted that the rejections and objections have been overcome by the amendments and that the application should now be allowed.

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The applicant assumes that the Examiner has considered the prior art cited in the parent application.

Respectfully submitted,



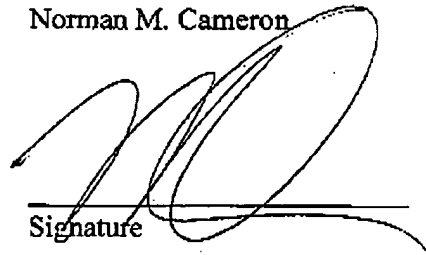
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M3402.1375

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